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Statement submitted by Stat-View Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

In order to have different, more equitable development outcomes, we need to have a different development process with more equitable input and decision-making. "Participatory monitoring and accountability" is a process for bringing community members — especially those who are poor, socially excluded or politically marginalized — into monitoring and decision-making for development. Citizen monitoring is needed in addition to technical data collection, because citizens have an integrated or holistic perspective on what is working and what isn't. Marginalized communities are especially important to this process because they are the ones most in need of development, and thus are the target population of many development goals and programs.

In order for participatory monitoring to be a meaningful process, however, there also need to be accessible and effective mechanisms by which ordinary people can hold their governments and international bodies accountable for commitments on development. The feedback gathered during the monitoring process needs to be brought forward in an effective way that highlights successes and failures, and allows governments and international agencies to see what changes people require. This need for accountability applies to the rich countries as well as to those countries that are striving to develop their economies. Rich and influential countries have perhaps the greatest obligation in the development process, both to ensure that their activities do not cause harm in the globalized economy and in conflict zones, and to support the beneficial development efforts of the other countries.

Our Initiative for Equality network is working through partnering civil society organizations conducting "Field Hearings" in more than 85 countries. We are taking input from marginalized communities, and using this information to support effective accountability mechanisms at the local, national, regional and international levels. To scale up and make this a truly global process in the post-2015 era, we are forming an alliance with several other networks having similar commitments and activities. Together, we will reach nearly every nation on earth, and bring marginalized citizens into the global dialogue on development. We focus on the full range of development issues, including social, economic and political equalities, poverty eradication, migration, conflict, sustainability, climate change and disaster reduction. Our networks will work together to support and engage in citizen monitoring and accountability processes related to all these development issues, and to how we can achieve the new sustainable development goals. By bringing community members into this participatory process, we will help to ensure that the transformative potential of the new goals can be realized.

Stat View International is a non-profit organization that provides research on social issues in Guinea. We are a member of the global network called Initiative for Equality, and are writing on behalf of both organizations.